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about (by the use of the added letter) without losing identity.

How will this proposal affect future progress? It should lighten the "burden of nomenclature" for every one who is not born with unusual ability in dealing with names: it should facilitate the work of the morphologist, the ecologist, the physiologist, the comparative psychologist, the field naturalist and the layman. And while the demand for simplification of terminology has not arisen from among those who are most actively engaged in describing new forms, this proposal will interfere in no way with the work of the systematist. Let the grinding of new species go merrily on: it is desirable that the fauna of the whole world be made known. Let genera and species be described and named as now. Let them be named in anagrams or in dithyrambs. Let them bear the name of Mr. Wollingstone-Predergast or of Satan: no matter: after the group name and serial number has been attached no one will be inconvenienced or offended. Let the splitter split and let the lumpers lump: each species once entered under its proper designation, under that designation it will ever remain: only the appended letter is changed by later shifting to another position in the group.

For the inauguration of such a system the machinery is already provided in the International Commission, and the preliminary work has already been done. Owing to the long search for priority the dates of names have been determined already with great conscientiousness throughout nearly the whole field of biology.⁶ It were better that zoological and botanical congresses should unite in this and that a complete standard name list for the fauna and flora of the world should be issued, giving the old names and their modern equivalents. Let additional designations be made (by the same commission: never by the de-

scriber, who merely names as now) in annual lists, such as are now announced in the *Zoological Record*. A few very recent species would thus have to be designated in the old way for a time. Let the international congresses in order to insure the success of the plan make one new rule: that new genera and species, to be valid must be issued in a publication which adopts and uses the standard list. Then we should have again a set of names fit for our general intellectual currency. No one who chose still to use all the subgeneric names would be restrained from so doing. Many in the present generation, inured to the long names, might prefer to go on using them all; but a new generation would regard them as we now regard the huge conchs and scraps of metal that were used for barter in primitive times.

JAMES G. NEEDHAM

THE NATIONAL CONSERVATION CONGRESS

THE program of the congress to be held at St. Paul next week includes the following addresses:

September 5—Morning: Addresses of welcome; an address by President Taft; "Our Public Land Laws," Senator Knute Nelson, of Minnesota. Afternoon: Conference of the governors of the states; addresses by governors.

September 6—Morning: Reports by the State Conservation Commissions; address, "National Efficiency," ex-President Roosevelt; appointment of committees. Afternoon: "Conservation—the Principle of the Red Cross," Miss Mabel Boardman, of Washington, president of the American Red Cross; "Safeguarding the Property of the People," Francis J. Heney, of California; "The Prevention of Power Monopoly," Herbert K. Smith, United States Commissioner of Corporations; "The Franchise as a Public Right," Herbert Hadley, Governor of Missouri; "Water as a Natural Resource," E. A. Fowler, of Phoenix, Ariz., president of the National Irrigation Congress; "The Development of Water Power in the Interest of the People," George C. Pardee, of Oakland, Cal.

⁶ I was able with the aid of an annotated copy of Kirby's "Catalogue of the Odonata" to arrange a complete name list for the subfamily Lestinae in about an hour. With two copies and a pair of shears, I think it might have been done in fifteen minutes.

Evening: Illustrated lecture, Big Game, Arthur Radelyffe Dugmore, New York.

September 7—Morning: "Rational Taxation of Resources," Dr. Francis L. McVey, president of the University of North Dakota; "The Interest of the Railways of the South in Conservation," W. W. Finley, president of the Southern Railway Company; "Laws That Should Be Passed," Francis G. Newlands, Senator from Nevada; "Making Our People Count," Dr. Edwin B. Craighead, president of Tulane University; "The Press and the People," D. Austin Latchaw, Kansas City *Star*. Afternoon: "Farm Conservation," James Wilson, Secretary of Agriculture; "Cattle, Food and Leather," Jonathan P. Dolliver, United States Senator from Iowa; "Conservation and Country Life," Professor Liberty Hyde Bailey, Cornell University; "Soils, Crops, Food and Clothing," James J. Hill, of St. Paul. Evening: Illustrated lecture, "Birds," Frank M. Chapman, curator, department of birds, New York City.

September 8—Morning: "Pan-American Conservation," John Barrett, Bureau of American Republics, Washington; "This Continent as a Home for our People," Dr. W. J. McGee, United States Department of Agriculture; "The Forest and the Nation," Henry S. Graves, United States Forester; "Life and Health as National Assets," Dr. F. F. Westbrook, Minneapolis. Afternoon: "The Natural Resources Belong to the People," James R. Garfield, former Secretary of the Interior; "Are We Mining Intelligently?" Thomas L. Lewis, president of the United Mine Workers of America; "Education and Conservation," Dr. Elmer Ellsworth Brown, United States Commissioner of Education. Evening: Illustrated lecture, "Personal and National Thrift," B. N. Baker, president of the National Conservation Congress.

September 9—Morning: "Conservation True Patriotism," Mrs. Matthew T. Scott, president-general of the National Society, Daughters of the American Revolution; "Saving Our Boys and Girls," Judge Ben. B. Lindsey, Denver; "The Conservation Pro-

gram," Gifford Pinchot, president of the National Conservation Association; reports of committees.

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

THE Second International Commission on Nomenclature was appointed in 1895 by the third International Zoological Congress, held at Leyden, Holland. It was directed to study the various codes of nomenclature and to report to a later congress. At the fourth (Cambridge, England) congress, 1898, the commission was made a permanent body, and increased to fifteen members, who later (at the Berne congress, 1904) were divided into three classes of five commissioners each, each class to serve nine years.

During the interval between the congresses, the commission has been in correspondence; it has held one meeting (1897) between congresses, and regular meetings during the triennial congresses. As a result of its labors, the original Paris-Moscow (1889, 1892, the Blanchard) code was taken as the basis, and with certain amendments was adopted (Berlin congress, 1901) by the International Congress. Amendments were presented by the commission to the Boston congress (1907) and were adopted.

The Berlin meeting (1901) adopted a rule that no amendment to the code should thereafter be presented to any congress for vote unless said amendment was in the hands of the commission at least one year prior to the meeting of the congress to which it was proposed to present the amendment.

Prior to the Boston congress a desire had developed among zoologists that the commission should serve as a court for the interpretation of the code, and in accordance therewith the commission presented to the Boston congress five opinions which were ratified by the congress.

Since the Boston meeting, a number of questions on nomenclature have been submitted to the commission for opinion. Owing to the amount of time consumed in communi-